

## AMENDMENTS

*In the claims:*

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 9 through 12, 14 and 15. Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 13 as follows:

Sub  
G1  
F1  
1. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister [through a hose]; and

at least one bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump, said bacterial filter comprising a 0.2 micron hydrophobic membrane filter.

F2  
2. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein said bacterial filter is located substantially within [a wall of] said canister.

F3  
5. (Twice Amended) A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said tube is fitted as an interference fit into [the] an interior portion of said porous pad [as an interference fit].

8. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic combination [as claimed in claim 1 further] for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;

at least one bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump; and

an elastomeric film dressing for securing said porous pad within said sealable space, wherein said dressing is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive [and said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells].

13. (Twice Amended) A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a polyether reticulated foam pad which is permeable to fluids, said pad having at least 95% of interconnecting cells being adaptable for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

F5 a dressing for securing said pad in place by covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad, said dressing being an elastomeric polyurethane film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;

a drainage tube fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound[,], said canister being connected to said pad through said drainage tube;

a suction pump for applying continuous or intermittent negative pressure to the wound, said pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;

a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation;

said canister further being removably received in a recess of a housing for said pump;

a bacterial filter contained in a portion of said canister in fluid communication between said canister and said pump; and

a capacitance sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Please add the following new claims:

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16. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

17. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises a capacitance sensor, said sensor being arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid.

18. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a sensor for detecting variance greater than a predetermined angle of said canister's vertical axis.

Fb  
19. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said predetermined angle is approximately 45°.

20. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said sensor comprises a tilt sensor, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said canister greater than said predetermined angle is detected.

Sub  
G2  
21. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 21 further comprising a delay circuit, said delay circuit being adapted to delay for a predetermined time period the discontinuation of negative pressure resultant detection of tilting of said canister.

22. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells.

23. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 22 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

24. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

25. A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected.

F 4 Sub  
case 2 G3  
26. A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:  
a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;  
a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;  
a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;  
a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;  
a bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump;  
a first sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid and a second sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said first and second sensors being associated with said pump to discontinue operation thereof in the event of a sensed condition; and  
a pressure transducer for determining the negative pressure delivered to the wound site, said pressure transducer being associated with said pump for controlling operation thereof.